Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A device for treating a disease of a heart, the device comprising:

a jacket dimensioned to be placed on said heart with said jacket surrounding at least a lower portion of said heart and sized and shaped to snugly conform to an external geometry of said heart to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole,

said jacket having an open base end sized to be placed over said heart and to surround at least a valvular annulus of said heart and said jacket having a length sized to extend from said base end to an apex end sized to surround said heart near an apex of said heart, a direction between said base end and said apex end defining a longitudinal dimension;

wherein said jacket is constructed from a biocompatible material selected to exhibit an amount of expansion in response to a force applied to said material by a heart in a first direction greater than an amount of expansion in

response to said force applied to said material by a heart in a second direction; and

said material oriented on said jacket with said first direction extending in a direction substantially aligned with said longitudinal dimension and said second direction aligned substantially transverse to said first direction;

whereby said jacket is more readily expandable in said longitudinal dimension than in a direction transverse to said longitudinal dimension.

19. (Previously presented) The device of claim 18, wherein said material is formed from a plurality of interconnected elongated members with opposing surfaces of said members defining a plurality of open cells.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket is configured to constrain at least a lower portion of the heart.

23. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket is dimensioned so as to circumferentially ~~surround~~ extend completely around said heart.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein said elongated members are formed of a plurality of fibers.

26. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein said elongated members are formed of metal.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18 wherein said jacket is adapted to constrain said heart from expanding beyond a maximum volume.

29-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket has an open apex end.

35. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket has a closed apex end.

36. (New) A device for treating a disease of a heart, the device comprising:

a jacket dimensioned to be placed on said heart with said jacket surrounding at least a lower portion of said heart and sized to snugly conform

to an external geometry of said heart to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole,

said jacket having an open base end sized to be placed over said heart and to surround at least a valvular annulus of said heart and said jacket having a length sized to extend from said base end to an apex end sized to surround said heart near an apex of said heart, a direction between said base end and said apex end defining a longitudinal dimension;

wherein said jacket is constructed from a biocompatible material selected to exhibit an amount of expansion in response to a force applied to said material in a first direction greater than an amount of expansion in response to said force applied to said material in a second direction; and

wherein said material is formed from a plurality of interconnected elongated members with opposing surfaces of said members defining a plurality of open cells, wherein said elongated members are coated;

said material oriented on said jacket with said first direction extending in a direction substantially aligned with said longitudinal dimension and said second direction aligned substantially transverse to said first direction;

whereby said jacket is more readily expandable in said longitudinal dimension than in a direction transverse to said longitudinal dimension.

37. (New) A device for treating a disease of a heart, the device comprising:

a jacket dimensioned to be placed on said heart with said jacket surrounding at least a lower portion of said heart and sized to snugly conform to an external geometry of said heart to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole,

said jacket having an open base end sized to be placed over said heart and to surround at least a valvular annulus of said heart and said jacket having a length sized to extend from said base end to an apex end sized to surround said heart near an apex of said heart, a direction between said base end and said apex end defining a longitudinal dimension;

wherein said jacket is constructed from a biocompatible material selected to exhibit an amount of expansion in response to a force applied to said material in a first direction greater than an amount of expansion in response to said force applied to said material in a second direction; and

wherein said material is formed from a plurality of interconnected elongated members with opposing surfaces of said members defining a plurality of open cells, wherein said elongated members are formed of stainless steel;

said material oriented on said jacket with said first direction extending in a direction substantially aligned with said longitudinal dimension and said second direction aligned substantially transverse to said first direction;

whereby said jacket is more readily expandable in said longitudinal dimension than in a direction transverse to said longitudinal dimension.